NATIONAL CONGRESS BULLETIN

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National Board Meeting Changed to Chicago

THE NATIONAL Board of Managers will hold its semi-annual meeting at Chicago, at the Edgewater Beach Hotel, September 16-19, instead of at Rapid City, South Dakota, as originally planned. The Executive Committee voted to make the change after the Call had brought in so many negative replies that the possibility of not having a quorum became a matter of grave concern.

At the Miami Convention, when the South Dakota city was selected, the Executive Committee named Chicago as second choice, in case suitable arrangements could not be made for the meeting in Rapid City. The change was made only after the Call had been issued and repeated letters and telegrams had failed to bring in enough acceptances to insure a quorum, and many National Board members had indicated their preference for changing to Chicago.

Mrs. Chris Hirning, President of the South Dakota Congress, and her colleagues have graciously accepted the majority vote and the disappointing situation, although their plans for entertaining the national visitors had progressed far before the change was made.

Once before in the history of the organization has a change occurred in a scheduled national meeting. In 1906 the National Convention was scheduled to meet in Los Angeles, when the earthquake caused a postponement until the following year.

The Board will begin its sessions on Monday, September 16, with meetings of the Executive Committee and special committees. Committees scheduled to hold meetings on Monday are as follows: State and National Relationships, Resolutions, Budget, Congress Development, Re-organization, Bylaws Revisions, Convention Management, advisory committees to the Education and Field Divisions of the National Office, and to the Colored Congress. New committees to be appointed on Goals for P.T.A.'s and for Cooperating Agencies will also meet.

On Monday evening, the State Presidents' Conference, Mrs. Arthur R. Williams, Normal, Illinois, President of the Illinois Congress, Chairman, and the National Chairmen's Conference, Julia Wright Merrill, Chicago, National Chairman of Library Service, Chairman, will hold dinner meetings.

Beginning Tuesday, the Board will devote three days to consideration of a full agenda pertaining to the work of the Congress and its 23,442 local units. It is expected that the Board will conclude its work on Thursday evening and the Executive Committee will meet on Friday.

A resume of action taken by the National Board will be published in the next issue of the BULLETIN.

National Congress Radio Program to Be Resumed

THE SERIES of radio programs sponsored so successfully last year by the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, the National Broadcasting Company, and the University of Chicago, will be resumed on Wednesday, September 25, at 2:30 P. M., Eastern Daylight Saving Time, with an address by Mrs. B. F. Langworthy. Beginning October 2, the programs will be broadcast each Wednesday afternoon from 2:30 to 3 oclock, Eastern Standard Time, over the N.B.C.-WJZ Blue Network.

The general plan for the year, as outlined by B. H. Darrow, Radio Chairman, in the September issue of the *National Parent-Teacher Magazine*, is as follows: The first talks in the series will be on the preschool child, followed by addresses on the elementary school period, adolescence, and finally, the adult period.

The tentative program for the month of October follows:

October 2

Preparation for Home and Family Life
—Lita Bane, Collaborator in Parent Education, U. S. Department of Agriculture

October 9

The Forum in Adult Education
—J. W. Studebaker, U. S. Commissioner of Education

October 16

The Lengthening Dependence of Young People
—Speaker to be announced

October 23

The Youth Project of the American Council on Education
—George F. Zook, American Council on Education

October 30

After Highschool—What?
—Colonel Theodore Roosevelt, Oyster Bay, N. Y.

International Federation

Mrs. B. F. Langworthy has just returned from the conventions of the World Federation of Education Associations and the International Federation of Home and School, held last month in Oxford, England. A summary of her report to the National Board on this trip will be published in the next issue of the BULLETIN.

Mrs. J. Sherman Brown

The National Congress mourns the death of Mrs. J. Sherman Brown from an automobile accident in which she was struck by an irresponsible driver.

Mrs. Brown was one of our most valuable vicepresidents for four years and, while she was not now on the Board, her influence will be felt as long as her name is remembered.

She was a woman of great beauty of character; kindliness of soul; courage in difficult situations and a high form of intelligence. Mrs. Brown was of great value in any life situation; her service to us was of lasting value.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to her bereaved family.

Mary L. Langworthy.

Rural Problems

That the greatest problem of the rural teacher is the indifferent attitude of parents toward the school is revealed in the replies to a questionnaire sent to rural teachers by Chloe C. Baldridge, Director of Rural Education, and Rural Service Chairman for the Nebraska Congress. The question, "What has been your greatest problem during the past year," brought forth answers such as these from scores of rural teachers: Unfriendly attitude of people in the school district toward each other, arousing interest of parents in school work, gaining interest of patrons of school, and community dissensions.

Several teachers report satisfactory progress in solving this problem through some form of parent-teacher organization, in which the cooperation of all citizens of the community was enlisted. A start toward a parent-teacher group was made in 2,243 schools, through the observance of a "Patrons Day." Community organizations or parent-teacher associations were reported in 872 districts.

National Committees at Work

New Art Leaflet

A twelve-page leaflet on Art, by Elizabeth Wells Robertson, National Chairman of Art, and Director of Art, Chicago Public Schools, has recently been published by the National Congress for the use of parent-teacher associations. Designed to aid the individual and the group in employing leisure time in pleasant and profitable ways, the pamphlet outlines numerous art activities under the following general heads: Doing Things; Creating Things; Collecting Things; and Learning Things.

Art excursions, gardening, and improvement of highways and roadsides are suggested under the head of *Doing Things.* Painting, clay modeling, pottery, samplers, hooked rugs, braided rugs, knitting, quilting, weaving, workshop activity, printing, and photography, come under the topic *Creating Things.* Individuals and groups may find interest in *Collecting Things,* Miss Robertson points out, and she suggests that they collect books, stamps, prints, furniture, and other objects. Under the heading of *Learning Things* comes the serious "work of thinkers," Miss Robertson asserts. Study of the history of art, lives of the artists, art in homes and churches, and carvings are among the suggestions listed.

Student Aid

Mrs. F. H. Devere, National Chairman of Student Aid, in a recent letter to state chairmen, quotes Angelo Patri as saying: "The need for scholarship funds was never so vital —the youth of the country is in danger. Every penny counts in this service." Mrs. Devere suggests several ways of augmenting P.T.A. student aid funds, including a Student Aid Party, fees from Life Memberships, a Penny Campaign, and food sales. "Many young people who are longing to go to college or school will be deprived of the privilege unless financial help is available," writes Mrs. Devere. "Let us help these young people." She requests that student aid chairmen send her human interest stories of boys and girls who have been helped.

Make Membership Mean More

Mary England, National Membership Chairman, writes:

Bringing to more and more people an intimate understanding of the splendid program that is being carried on by the parent-teacher associations under the guidance of the National Congress is the direct responsibility of the Membership Committee. However, good membership work is found in publicity that interests persons in the parent-teacher program; in the program that inspires others to help make better the conditions affecting child welfare; in the kindly, neighborly spirit which makes one want to come back to the next meeting. The four committees herein involved — membership, program, publicity, and hospitality—working hand in hand can make membership mean more.

The parent-teacher association needs many more recruits if it is to get very far in its broadening program of service to childhood. On the other hand there are many individuals who, deeply concerned about the very conditions this organization is trying to improve, would, if they understood the real purpose of the movement, gladly give of their time and talents to this work and find joy in so doing. Bringing these two factors together—the task to be done and the person to do it—is an excellent way to make membership mean more to individual members and to the whole organization whose cause would be advanced through their services. Try a card index of talents, interests, and skills of the members as an aid in making the greatest possible use of these resources.

Getting folks to understand and appreciate what it means to be a member of the National Congress will ever be an important phase of membership work. Those who go out to enrol new members must themselves have the deep conviction that this relationship is invaluable if they would convince others.

"Make Membership Mean More." Let this be the year's membership slogan. Imbued with this spirit it will not be difficult to reach our goal—

Two Million Members in 1936

P.T.A. Radio Programs

A series of parent-teacher publicity programs will be broadcast by Station WLS, Chicago, beginning Monday, August 26, at 2 P. M., Chicago Daylight Saving Time, under the direction of Mrs. Walter H. Buhlig, of Chicago, Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Publicity and Regional Publicity Director of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, and former President of the Illinois Congress. WLS, the radio station of the Prairie Farmer, has as its chief territory Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, and Wisconsin. Mrs. B. F. Langworthy will be the speaker on September 9, on the subject, "The P.T.A. Around the World."

Mrs. Bruce Carr Jones, Macon, Georgia, Regional Publicity Director for the southern states, will continue her series of talks over station WMAZ, Macon.

State Congress Radio Programs

Study of radio broadcasting activities of state Congresses of Parents and Teachers made by Dr. Tracy Tyler, Secretary of the National Committee on Education by Radio, reveals these interesting facts:

More than half (27) of the state Congresses of Parents and Teachers have been presenting radio programs regularly since September 1, 1934. Seven states present occasional programs; three have definitely planned the presentation of programs; and three cooperate with other agencies in presenting broadcasts.

The various state Congresses of Parents and Teachers have been interested particularly in the development of study groups, which have listened to and afterward discussed programs on parent education and child development. Twenty-six states reported listening groups.

Radio stations have been generous in allotting time on the air, and no state Congress has found it necessary to pay for the radio broadcasting time it used. Dr. Tyler comments: "Radio station managers are evidently convinced that they are under obligation to serve the public interest by making available to their listeners programs of the type presented by the various parent-teacher associations. One state reported that the radio station paid its speakers. Such an arrangement appears to be meritorious. It requires considerable outlay of money and time to prepare and present educational programs, to publicize them thoroughly, and to follow them up carefully."

New Jersey reports an interesting experiment. Broadcasts in the Italian language are being given from Jersey City and Camden. These programs have originated with the Italian people themselves.

Parent-Teacher Week Observance Planned by States

Statewide enrolment of members will be stressed during Parent-Teacher Week this fall in several states. Official proclamations by the governor of the state have been or will be issued in some cases. Alabama, Nebraska, Mississippi, and Missouri have sent the National Office some of their publicity material. The Missouri publicity packet includes a list of indorsements of the P.T.A. by educators; messages from the state and national presidents; greetings from the president of the National Education Association, State Superintendent of Schools, and the State Teachers Association; and miscellaneous interesting facts about the parent-teacher organization. The Proclamation of the Governor of Missouri follows:

"Whereas, Parent-Teacher Associations of Missouri have performed great service to the public schools of our state by bringing about closer contacts and better understanding between parents, teachers, and pupils.

"Whereas, It is desirable that this splendid work be continued in order that our school system in Missouri may become more effective and have the support and interest of our citizens.

"Now, therefore, I, Guy B. Park, Governor of the State of Missouri, do hereby designate and declare the Week of September 23rd to 30th, 1935, inclusive, as Parent-Teacher Week in Missouri and invite all schools and parent-teacher associations to join in special exercises and consider how that great public interest may be stimulated in the work of the parent-teacher associations and how the welfare of school children may be further advanced.

"In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be fixed the great seal of the State of Missouri this 19th day of August, 1935."

World Federation Officers

New officers of the World Federation of Education Associations were elected at the convention in Oxford, England, as follows:

President: Dr. Paul Monroe, Teachers College, Columbia University, New York, N. Y.; *Secretary-General:* Mr. Uel W. Lamkin, State Teachers College, Maryville, Missouri.

Annual Summary

This year 13,714 local units, or about 58 percent of the units in membership, sent in a report for the Annual Summary of Local Unit Information, which is now being prepared in the National Office.

To insure a much larger return next year, state workers are already making plans to bring new stress on the value of each local report. The 1935-36 report form is now ready for distribution to the states.

Just Off the Press

Congress publications are listed, described, and priced in the new 1935-36 Annual Announcement of Congress Publications.

Recently released Congress publications include the *Proceedings;* Highschool pamphlet, the Public Welfare Department Program pamphlet—both containing type programs; and plateprints on Kindergartens, Physical Education, Correspondence Courses, International Relations, and Suggested Bylaws for Local Congress Units.

A directed reading course for parents, teachers, and social workers, entitled, "The Training of the Child," by Alice Sowers, has been published recently by the Extension Division of the University of Virginia. The price of the outline is 25 cents for single copies, or in sets of 10 or more the price is 20 cents.

An article on the "Home Economics Teacher and the Parent Education Program," by Alice Sowers, appears in the August-September issue of the *Journal of the American Home Economics Association.*

NEWS FROM STATE BRANCHES

Fall State Conventions

The following information concerning fall state conventions has been received in the National Office:

Arkansas—November 6-7, Little Rock
Theme—"Mobilizing for Service."

Iowa—October 23-25, Fort Dodge (Biennial)
Theme—"Rededication to Wholesome Living."

Maine—October 5-6, Bangor
Theme—"Our Home and Our Children."

Maryland—November 19-21, Baltimore

Massachusetts—October 16-18, Worcester

Minnesota—October 9-11, Detroit Lakes
Theme—"Home Keeping Hearts Are Happiest"

Mississippi—October 2-4, Jackson (Biennial)
Theme—"Mississippi's Child—His Home and School."

Missouri—October 29-31, Cape Girardeau
Theme—"Better Parents in a Changing World."

Nebraska—October 22-24, Columbus

New Jersey—October 23-25, Atlantic City
Theme—"The Future of the Present Generation."

New York—October 7-10, Buffalo
Theme—"The Child and His World Relationship."

Ohio—October 9-11, Akron

Oklahoma—October 8-11, Norman

Oregon—October 22-25, Medford (Biennial)
Theme—"Building for Permanent Values."

South Dakota—October 16-18, Rapid City
Theme—"The Home Revives Its Responsibility."

Texas—November 18-21, El Paso
Theme—"The Home—The Index to National Life."

Vermont—October 9-10, Burlington
Theme—"Why a P.T.A.?"

Virginia—November 5-7, Norfolk
Theme—"The Home."

West Virginia—October 17-19, Charleston
Theme—"The Home—The Index to National Life."

California At the July state board meeting, the California Congress voted to purchase another life membership cup to be awarded annually to the district securing the largest number of life memberships regardless of total district membership. A cup has been awarded in the past to the district securing the largest percentage of life memberships based on total district membership. All funds derived from the sale of life memberships are placed in the student loan revolving fund.

Texas The state correspondence course will be given free to district vicepresidents, local and council presidents; group study will be initiated this year.

Colorado Training classes for local presidents and committee chairmen have been held throughout the year in Denver. Duties and services of their committees and departments were described in detail by the officers and chairmen of the Denver Council, the presidents taking notes and later holding a school of instruction in their own schools. The *Parent-Teacher Manual* was used as a text. Every chairman had at least one meeting, and others had several. The legislative chairman had meetings once or twice a month; the county parliamentarian held monthly classes in parliamentary procedure; and the publicity chairman held monthly classes based upon the national correspondence course in publicity methods

Mississippi Inaugurating a five-year plan for Curriculum Revision, the Mississippi Congress, at the invitation of the Mississippi Education Association, sent its director of education to Peabody College, Nashville, Tennessee, to study two weeks last summer with members of the State Board of Education and Mississippi teachers in the curriculum laboratory. During the fall the director accompanied the educators on a tour of the state, visiting state educational institutions with them and speaking on how the P.T.A. could cooperate in this program of changing methods.

This summer the Mississippi Congress sent the former president of the State Education Association to Peabody College for further study in curriculum revision. A bulletin for lay people is planned to supply a program of study for P.T.A. groups and furnish programs for meetings.

Teachers and 1,521 members studied the bulletin of the Mississippi Education Association for the improvement of instruction during the past year. Many more are expected to study the bulletin which will be issued this year. This cooperative work between the M.E.A. and the P.T.A. has brought to the educators in Mississippi a better understanding of parent-teacher objectives.

New Hampshire The New Hampshire Congress has been invited to sponsor a three-day course in parent-teacher work in the two state normal schools during the coming year. The state Congress will have a panel discussion on "Relation of Parent-Teacher Work to Our Educational System" at the State Teachers Convention this fall.

West Virginia One of the requirements for a standard school set up by the State Department of Education is that there shall be a parent-teacher association belonging to the state and National Congresses.

North Carolina The first official act of the North Carolina Congress at its annual convention in April was to send telegrams to both branches of the General Assembly and to the Governor urging support of the twenty-two-million dollar appropriation for the public schools, and adequate support of the higher institutions of learning.

The united energies of the Congress were concentrated on increased appropriations for education during the entire session of the Legislature. Personal visits and telephone calls were made continuously and a steady stream of telegrams and letters poured in from every community until the appropriations were settled.

At the official hearing of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction before the Joint Appropriations Committee of the House and Senate, the state president, Mrs. W. B. Aycock, spoke in behalf of the State Superintendent's program. This was done for the first time in the history of North Carolina legislative hearings.

While the final appropriation for the public schools did not reach the figure requested, it represented about a two million dollar increase above the amount recommended by the Budget Commission and a four-million dollar increase over the present appropriation.

Correction

The Indiana Congress had a gain of 18,191 members in 1934-35 and should have received recognition as the state with the third largest gain in the list published in the summer issue of the National Congress BULLETIN.

National Representatives

Mrs. B. F. Langworthy, National President, will attend the following state conventions: Mississippi, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Nebraska, Virginia, Maryland.

Mrs. J. K. Pettengill, First Vicepresident, will represent the Congress at conventions in Maine, Massachusetts, and Vermont. She will also attend district conferences in New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Connecticut.

Staff members will visit the following states during October and November:

Miss Frances S. Hays—Iowa, Illinois, Kentucky, Georgia.

Mrs. Charles E. Roe—Wyoming, Idaho, Utah, Nebraska.

Miss Alice Sowers—South Dakota, Colorado, New Mexico, Texas.

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American Red Cross Annual Roll Call—November 11 to 28

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American Education Week—November 11 to 17